TITLE OF THE INVENTION:

Nectarine Tree 'S 6817'

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS:

None

PRIORITY CLAIM:

This application claims priority of U.S. Provisional patent application Ser. No. 60/404,173 filed August 15, 2002.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT:

None

LATIN NAME OF THE GENUS AND SPECIES OF THE PLANT CLAIMED:

Prunus persica L. Batsch.

VARIETY DENOMINATION:

'S 6817'

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The new nectarine tree 'S 6817' is the result of a controlled cross between 'Fantasia' (unpatented), seed parent, and an unnamed pollen parent. The cross was perfomed by the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA) at Angers, France, as part of a controlled breeding program. 'S 6817' was asexually propagated by budding at Angers, France, and has been observed to remain true to type over successive asexually propagated generations.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

'S 6817' was selected for its suitability as a commercial nectarine tree cultivar. Fruit of the 'S 6817' cultivar matures in late August in central Washington state. This variety is distinguishable over related variety 'S 6816' (U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 10/642,442) by its later maturity date and larger and slightly astringent fruit.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS:

FIG. 1 shows a tree of the new cultivar;

FIG. 2 shows branches and blossoms of the new cultivar;

FIG. 3 shows a tree of the new cultivar;

FIG. 4 shows fruit and leaves of the new cultivar; and

FIG. 5 shows a sectioned fruit of the new cultivar.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIETY:

The following is a detailed botanical description of 'S 6817,' a new and distinct nectarine tree, based on observations made during the 2004 growing season, of specimens planted at Parker, Washington, USA, in 2001. The described trees were grown on 'Lovell' (not patented) rootstock. All colors are described according to the Royal Horticultural Society Color Chart. It should be understood that the botanical and analytical characteristics described will vary somewhat depending upon cultural practices and climatic conditions, and can vary with location and season. Quantified measurements are expressed as an average of measurements taken from a number of individual plants of the new variety. The measurements of any individual plant, or any group of plants, of the new variety may vary from the stated average.

Tree

Type	Non-spur type
Vigor	Strong
Habit	Upright, spreading
Size	Width 3.2 m; height 1.9 m
Trunk	Diameter 23.8 cm at soil level; bark very rough; overcolor grey 201D; undercolor grey-orange 166DA; lenticels 0.4 to 0.6 cm, yellow 159A

Flowering Branch

Size	Lateral branch diameter 2.6 cm, length 40.4 cm (previous season growth); internode length 2.8 to 4.9 cm
Color	Greyed-red 178A

Anthocyanin coloration	Present, medium intensity
Buds	
Abundance of flower buds	Many
Distribution of flower buds	Generally in groups of two or more
Bud burst	March 20 at Parker, Washington
Duration of flowering	March 20 to April 7 at Parker, Washington
Bud size	Length 0.8 to 0.9 cm
Bud shape	Elongated with blunt tip, smooth
Bud color	Red-purple 60A, tip pink 68B
Tolerance to cold	Hardy
Flower	
Type	Showy
Calyx color (open flower before falling of petals)	Orange
Petals	Quantity 5; length 1.6 to 1.7 cm, width 1.2 to 1.4 cm; margins ruffled, overlapping; shape rotund; color at tip pink 69C, at base pink 70B
Flower size	Diameter 3.9 to 4.0 cm
Fragrance	Mild
Sepals	Length 0.4 to 0.5 cm, width 0.3 to 0.4 cm; red-purple 60A
Reproductive organs	Stamen white 155D, quantity 32, length 0.9 to 1.0 cm; anther length 0.5 cm; filament 0.8 to 0.9 cm; pistil 1.1 to 1.2 cm, smooth, yellow 1A

Pollen	Semi-abundant, yellow 1A
Leaves	
Size	Large, length14.5 cm, width 3.0 cm
Ratio length/width	Medium
Leaf shape	Oblanceolate, upfolded, tip recurved downward, base nearly right angle, equilateral, apex acuminate
Leaf margin	Serrulate
Leaf color	Upper surface green 147A; lower surface green 144A, anthocyanin coloration absent
Petiole	
Size	Length 1.0 cm, diameter 0.1 cm
Color	Green 149D
Glands	Present, usually more than 2, reniform
Fruit	
Size	Medium, diameter 8.6 cm
Shape in profile view	Oblate, very flat
Shape of tip	Bowl shaped depressed
Symmetry when cut along suture	Asymmetric
Suture	Marked
Depth of petiole cavity	Shallow, 1.2 cm
Width of petiole cavity	Medium, 4.0 cm
Skin	Thin, smooth, tenacious; ground color yellow-orange 19A,

	overcolor red 45A
Firmness of flesh	Firm, crisp
Flesh texture	Fine
Color	Yellow-orange 23C
Anthocyanin coloration directly under skin	Absent
Anthocyanin coloration of the flesh	Absent
Anthocyanin coloration around the stone	Present, red 43A
Flavor	Sub-acid
Sugar content of flesh	Medium, 12.5° Brix
Stone	
Size	Small in relation to fruit, diameter 26 mm
Shape	Flat, round, ridged
Color	Red, 53A
Likelihood of stone to split	Absent or very weak
Degree of adherence to flesh	Medium, semi-freestone
Maturity	
Time of maturity	Late, beginning August 27 at Parker, Washington; requires more than one picking
Preharvest drop	Some occurrence
Heat and cold tolerance	Tolerant in area tested (USDA Zone 6)
Resistance to diseases and pests	None observed